

WASHINGTON, Friday, Jan. 27—10 a. m.

Mr. Blair, ex., returned from Richmond last night. Mr. Singleton has not yet got back. Nothing is definitely known of the results of Mr. Blair's mission. That the envoy has hopes of an adjustment, and that the Rebels desire peace, as they repeatedly acknowledged to him, is true. That he brings back any terms for a restoration of the Union and submission to the laws and the Constitution no one pretends.

To the Associated Press.

It is reported that the Hon. Francis P. Blair, ex., returned here last night from Richmond. This news, however, excites but little interest.

The Hon. Francis P. Blair arrived in Washington this morning.

Theories and Queries about Mr. Blair's Efforts—Suppositions and Surmises—Nothing Positively Known.

Special Dispatch to The N. Y. Tribune.

WASHINGTON, Friday, Jan. 27—9 p. m.

Mr. Blair has returned from Richmond unaccompanied. The results of his errand are summarily stated by the best informed here to be the ascertainment of Jeff. Davis's willingness to negotiate for the benefit of two countries. He had been sent to Richmond to negotiate for the benefit of one country.

Two theories prevail as to Mr. Blair's missions. The one is that they were set on foot for the needs of Mr. Lincoln's inaugural address, in which it is said that the President will declare to the world that he has honestly and humanely endeavored to persuade the Rebels to lay down their arms and terminate the war by an arrangement full of decency while preserving the national unity; that his offers and solicitations had been rejected, and that no alternative is left to him but a vigorous prosecution of the war to the total crushing out of the Rebellion. The other theory is that Mr. Blair's impulses in the direction of peace, guiding his genius for political arrangement, took him to Richmond on an errand of pacification which the President felt might do good and could do hurt, but which Mr. Lincoln put restrictions on, to prevent its being personally mischievous to himself or embarrassing to his administration. He limited Mr. Blair's powers in such a sense, it is said that he exceeded these powers on his first mission; that he tendered concessions to the Rebels and held out promises which Mr. Lincoln disapproved of when he got back, and that to recall and get rid of when Mr. Blair was sent to Richmond a second time.

Let us—Although Mr. Blair is one of the closest-mouthed men in the world, he is represented by stock gamblers and professional newsmongers to have divulged the results of his embassy. He brings back, they say, two propositions from Jeff. Davis. The first to agree to a peace on the basis of recognition. The second a willingness to establish an armistice for ninety days in which to talk about negotiations and peace.

It is now 10 o'clock in the evening, and Mr. Singleton, Democratic peace envoy to Richmond, has not reached the city. His most anguished Chicago-platform friends do not expect the slightest results from his mission in the direction of peace.

Mr. Blair's Mission to Richmond.

To the Associated Press.

PHILADELPHIA, Friday, Jan. 27, 1865.

The following is a special dispatch to The Evening Telegraph:

It is now definitely known that Mr. Blair's mission to Richmond has been crowned with complete success. Mr. Davis pledged himself to send immediately three gentlemen to Washington, to confer upon terms of peace.

Mr. Davis stated distinctly to Mr. Blair that he would conclude peace and return to the Union upon terms that would be perfectly satisfactory to Mr. Lincoln and Congress.

Mr. Blair also had an interview with Gen. Lee, who avowed himself desirous of ending the rebellion by laying down their arms and returning to the Union.

Mr. Blair also conversed with a majority of the Rebel Congressmen, who represented themselves as in favor of abandoning further hostilities.

There can be no doubt that in a day or two at furthest Commissioners will reach Washington to bring from the repentant Rebels renewed allegiance to the Union, the Constitution and the Laws.

Mr. Blair experienced the kindest of treatment at the hands of the authorities, and reports that since the redemption of Fort Fisher an entire revision of public opinion has taken place.

The most extreme advocates of "fighting it out to the bitter end," now admit the hopelessness of their cause.

The probability of an early peace was freely discussed in leading social and political circles in Richmond, and a general feeling of joy and relief resulted from the rapid circulation of the information.

Speculations and Comments of the Rebel Newspapers.

Special Dispatch to The N. Y. Tribune.

WASHINGTON, Friday, Jan. 27—9 p. m.

From Richmond papers of the 25th, just received at this bureau, I send you the following:

BLAIR'S MISSION.

The Richmond Whig of the 25th says: "The extracts from the Yankee journals, copied in to-day's paper, may, or may not, afford a clue to the precise objects of Mr. Blair's present visit to Richmond. We know that he has had one or two interviews with the President, but beyond this not a word of positive news has been received."

Official circles. Rumor says that Mr. Blair is an official medium of communication between the two Presidents, and that he is using all the privileges of his position, and whatever logic he may command, to influence Messrs. Davis and Lincoln to agree to the preliminaries of an adjustment. Rumor further represents that Lincoln has indicated through his medium a more practicable and conciliatory disposition than the war has given him credit for, but that he still falls short of the reasonable and indispensable demands of the Southern people. All this is vague and unsatisfactory, but everybody will be content to remain unlighted for the present if the developments hereafter to be made shall give any assurance of a speedy and honorable peace.

LATEST FACTS AND ODDS.

Something of a sensation was produced this forenoon by a report that an armistice for three months had been agreed upon. It is not true. On the contrary, we know that shells were flying furiously through the air this morning, and bursting too, at or near the end of Farrar's Dutch Gap Island, where the Yankees seek obstructions last summer. Several of our iron-clads were responding to the enemy's fire at that point, and certain bodies of troops were in motion. The rapid

booming of heavy guns from three o'clock this morning until noon, indicated that the dogs of war had been let loose on the lines and on the River below the city. There is no prospect of an armistice at present, but Mr. Blair is still in Richmond, and while we are not yet permitted to know officially anything relative to his mission, we are satisfied, from all that we can hear, that he is zealously endeavoring to bring about a termination of the war. A great reputation will be the reward of his effort, if he succeeds, and he is ambitious enough to strive to secure the renown which will attach to his name if he proves a successful Commissioner of Peace.

A flag-of-truce boat went down the River to-day. Gen. Singleton of Illinois, and niece, were among the passengers.

BLAIR.

The Enquirer says: This personage is still in town, but nothing connected with the object of his visit has transpired. A report that an armistice had been agreed to by the President proved without foundation other than the fact that the white flag was seen flying near the point where the trace boat met.

THE BLAIR MISSION.

The Examiner says: We learn that Mr. Blair, contrary to general expectation did not go down on the flag-of-truce boat yesterday, but yet tarries in Richmond, in consequence of which there were various rumors yesterday, as his delay here was very naturally thought to imply that his propositions, whatever they may be, had neither been rebuffed nor answered with decision. All that is known is the fact that Blair brought a letter from Lincoln addressed to Jefferson Davis. Its contents are not even surmised. But the only object of sending Blair here is to distract public attention from the public defense, and keep up the noise of demagogues about peace, while the Yankee armies are in motion.

THE PEACE AND OTHER SENSATION RUMORS.

The Sentinel says: Mr. Blair is still in the city. We saw him on the streets late yesterday afternoon. It is not believed that Mr. Blair has been authorized to offer any terms of settlement that could be accepted by the Confederate people. The rumor circulated yesterday of an armistice for three months, has its answer in the thunder of the cannon below the city. These rumors of peace and of suspension of hostilities can have no other effect than to raise false hopes in the minds of the people, and, if not so intended, create divisions among the people. The shortest way to peace is to prepare vigorously for war. The enemy will never make terms with us until they are convinced we will fight on till we achieve our independence. The more we talk about peace, the more arrogant they become. The men who are continually whining about peace but prolong the war, as they well know there can be no peace but in two ways, subjugation, or independence. The Yankee who controls the Augusta Chronicle is no doubt, in favor of submission, but the people of the Confederate States will have nothing less than independence.

BLAIR AND PEACE.

The Dispatch says: "The city was full of rumors yesterday morning, to the effect that an armistice of ninety days had been agreed upon between the Confederate and United States, and some went so far as to state that white flags were flying from the hostile lines below Richmond. These stories were the offspring of idle fancies. So far from there being an armistice between the belligerents there was more of active war yesterday on the line below here than there has been since last November. Our rams and small wooden boats stirred down the river at an early hour, with the design, it is supposed, of damaging the Yankee pontoon bridges near Deep Bottom, their shipping, and, if fortune favored, their storehouses at Bermuda Hundred and City Point. Mr. P. Blair was still in the city last evening. He arrived here on Saturday evening, dined with the President on Sunday, and has had several interviews with him since. What has transpired during these interviews is positively not known, the President having not even made any communication to his cabinet on the subject. We must await Mr. Blair's return to the North, and then see what the New York Tribune has to say for the facts. Mr. Blair will probably leave by the flag-of-truce boat which goes down the river this morning."

LATER REBEL NEWS.

Richmond Dates to the 25th inst.—Views of Gen. Lee on Arming Slaves—He is Very Anxious to Try It—The Naval Affairs in James River—No Unionism in Georgia—The Loss of Wilmington a Great Gain—Gold Coming Down—Military Items.

Special Dispatch to The N. Y. Tribune.

WASHINGTON, Friday, Jan. 27, 1865.

Richmond papers of the 25th inst. have been received at this bureau, from which the following items are gathered:

THE REBELS ARMING THEIR SLAVES.

The Enquirer says: The Richmond correspondent of The Liverpool Courier writes the following in a recent letter to that paper: "I sent you a letter dated King George County, Va., which I fear has been detained by Mr. Seward. He does not favor the freedom of the press. It advised you of a movement in high quarters here toward an entire change in the laws concerning Slavery. Since writing that letter I spent a day with Gen. R. E. Lee, and when this subject was introduced he interrupted the conversation and said: 'I wish you to understand my views on this subject. I am favorable to the use of our servants in the army. I think we can make better soldiers of them than Lincoln can. He claims to have two hundred thousand in his service. We can destroy the value of all such soldiers by him by using ours against them. I do not see why I should have the use of such available materials as well as he. I would hold out to them the certainty of freedom and a home when they shall have rendered efficient service. He has not given them a home, nor can he give them officers who can understand and manage them as well as we can.' On the next day I conversed with Gen. S. Cooper, Adjutant and Inspector General of S. V. A. He said: 'I agree with Gen. Lee in his views. I would not avail the slow action of Legislatures on this subject, we have already used them in place of soldiers as teamsters and in engineer service, we can use them in other ways. There is no reason for delay, let them be placed in the field and give them freedom for faithful service to the State.' The Government has inaugurated such a movement by making, during the present month, a draft of free and slave negroes, nominally for the erection of field works, etc., but really to drift and prepare them for some defense. I traveled to Richmond in a train containing one or two carriages crowded with these drafted negroes."

NAVAL EXPEDITION DOWN THE JAMES—AN AFFAIR OF OUR IRON-CLADS.

From The Examiner.

The actual reports in the early part of yesterday morning of armistices and truces, obtained a singular commentary as the day wore on, by sounds of firing down the river, which were plainly audible in this city. These sounds, it was ascertained, proceeded from an affair of our iron-clads, at or near the end of Farrar's Dutch Gap Island, on the line of obstructions which the enemy had placed there, and also from a heavy fire of

our mortar batteries on Fort Harrison, which opened at 1 p. m., and continued for several hours. The expedition of our iron-clads down the river had been designed to break the enemy's pontoon bridges, and thus destroy his communications, and to take advantage of the ascertained fact that he had withdrawn most of his naval force from the river, probably to Wilmington, leaving but one iron-clad and some wooden vessels in the channel above Varina. There was also reason to suppose that the recent frost had washed out a portion of his line of obstructions, and thus opened the way to the attack on his pontoons. We may say here that the expedition is understood to have originated and to have been planned by Gen. Lee, in view of the circumstances referred to. In attempting to pass the obstructions and to run the fire of the enemy's shore batteries, the Drewry, a small wooden gunboat, once a tag in the commerce of the James, which mounted one gun, got aground and was blown up by the crew, who got off without any casualty. There was a report in the street that her magazine had been exploded by the enemy's fire, but this is not so. When she got aground there was but little attempt to get her off, as she was considered of but little importance, except to pilot the channel. The Fredericksburg, we are informed, passed the obstructions successfully. The Richmond and Virginia got aground, it being low tide, in the shoal water between Dutch Gap Canal and the Howlet Battery, but as the tide rose they got off and followed their consort down the River. It is reported that the Virginia got a shot which killed two men and wounded several others. This we believe to be the sum of the casualties so far. The Navy Department last night had no official dispatches whatever as to the affair, alleging as a reason that the vessels had got beyond the reach of communication, which means, we suppose, that they are off Varina. A report was brought from the army lines last night that the Fredericksburg had got as far as Aiken's house, and that but one iron-clad of the enemy was visible in the stream. We may expect further news to-day of an expedition that has so far been a success.

FROM GEORGIA.

The Examiner says: We have seen a very intelligent army officer, of considerable rank, who has just returned from Georgia, where he had many opportunities of observation and acquaintance, and he tells us that the spirit of the people there is erect as ever, and has been very much misrepresented by men who would find an excuse for their own creaking. He says there has been such distrust and gloom there, as might naturally be expected from military mismanagement in that part of the Confederacy, but that no idea of abandoning the struggle has entered the minds of any but a pack of sneaks in Savannah. That submission is scouted, and that not one single "Union" meeting has been held in Georgia outside of the fallen city of Savannah.

CAPTURE OF WILMINGTON.

The Enquirer says: The public mind seems pretty well satisfied that the Yankee embargo upon the shoddy commerce of Wilmington will not prove injurious to the Southern cause. The occupation of the vital route to the blockade-runners, as far as that port is concerned, is gone. They should not be permitted to stick their heads into King Cotton at any other place. The commercial monarch is not a dead carcass, as they suppose. He is only in a trance, from which he will soon awake if let alone. He will, however, have no chance to revive if constantly worried at. A Confederate embargo ought to be put upon exportations of cotton at Galveston and other places. The ships engaged in that trade are mercantile leeches, drawing away the commercial blood of these States, for they arrive, in a great degree, empty, and go away full. Some of the vessels, to be sure, are owned in part by the Government. Would it not be well to have these interests sold.

CONFEDERATE FINANCES.

The Examiner says a panic continues in the Gold market, which is partially attributed to the scarcity of Confederate notes. Confederate money is in great demand, which is daily becoming more stringent, the ultimate effect of which must be to establish some well-defined relation between paper and specie, and to overcome the combination of brokers to put up gold to speculative figures. Gold sold Monday at 35, and yesterday the market price was so uncertain as to be nominal. It is known that the Government has accumulated at Richmond, within the past few days, a large quantity of gold, and it is surmised, to the great terror of the engrossers of specie, that the Government may throw some of it on the market, if it has not already done so, and put the price at its own figures. The Yankee Government has sustained its finances, because it has been the great operator in the gold mines of New York, and is always ready to "bear" the market when emergency requires. There is no doubt that our Government might control, almost entirely at its pleasure, the price of gold, considering the limited amount in the hands of private parties for speculation; far too limited to make it a matter of "bulls and bears."

MILITARY ITEMS.

Lieut.-Gen. S. D. Lee is at Columbus, Ga., wounded. He received a pretty severe wound in the foot during the last fight in Tennessee. Major Steele was captured in Kentucky recently, and carried to Louisville, where he is confined with ball and chain. He is a son-in-law to Dr. Robert Breckinridge.

Gen. Beauregard has made a demand upon some of the counties on the Georgia Railroad for one thousand slaves to repair the road from Greensborough to Atlanta.

Gen. S. E. Gist of South Carolina fell into the arms of a member of his staff, Lieut. Trenholm, he said, "take me to my wife," and instantly expired.

A furlough of thirty days has been granted to all West Tennessee troops.

Mont.-Gen. D. H. Hill has reached Augusta, for the purpose of assuming command of the troops in that vicinity.

RUMORS OF A YANKEE REPULSE AT WILMINGTON.

The Wilmington Journal of the 21st says: "We understood that on Thursday last there was some skirmishing between the left wing of our forces in the neighborhood of Sugar Loaf, and the Yankee infantry, who had made an advance from their entrenched position. During the afternoon, it is reported, while the Yankee vessels were engaged in shelling the woods, their infantry made an attack on Clingman's Brigade, occupying our left, with the evident intention of flanking them, but were repulsed and driven back to their entrenchments. No casualties were reported, but we learn that several of our men were wounded."

To the Associated Press.

WASHINGTON, Friday, Jan. 27, 1865.

The Richmond Examiner of the 25th has the following:

We hear of no changes in the Cabinet. Mr. Seddon has certainly and decisively resigned. His successor is not named or suggested.

We are happy to learn that the President has signed the bill creating a General Staff. The bill is now in law. No appointment has yet been made to fill the new office.

The following is from The Sentinel of the 25th: Cannon and musketry were heard in the direction of Battery Harrison yesterday. It was reported that Battery Harrison had been recaptured from the Yankees.

No official intelligence had been received at the War Department at 6 o'clock last evening.

Gen. Butler to Speak at Lowell.

Boston, Friday, Jan. 27, 1865.

Gen. Butler is expected in Lowell to-morrow, and has accepted an invitation to address his fellow-citizens there to-morrow night.

NEW-YORK, SATURDAY, JANUARY 28, 1865.

PRICE FOUR CENTS.

QUOTA OF NEW-YORK CITY.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON VOLUNTEERING.

They are Authorized to Increase Hand-Money.

Exciting Debate in the Board of Supervisors.

The Board met by special call at 8 o'clock last evening, the President, Hon. WILLIAM M. TWEED, in the chair. The Special Committee on Volunteering submitted the following report:

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS.

SPECIAL SESSION, Friday, Jan. 26, 1865, 8 o'clock, p. m.

The Board met in their Chamber, No. 17 City Hall, pursuant to the following call:

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, OFFICE NO. 17 CITY HALL, NEW-YORK, Jan. 27, 1865.

We, the undersigned, members of the Board of Supervisors of the County of New-York, do hereby request Joseph B. Young, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of said County, to call a special meeting of said Board of Supervisors for Friday, the 27th inst., at 8 p. m., to transact such business as may be brought before the Board. (Signed.)

ELIJAH F. PURDY, SHERIDAN SHOOK, JAMES DAVIS, WALTER ROACHE, JAMES DAVIS, ANDREW WILLMANN, ORISON BLUNT, WM. T. TWEED, J. B. YOUNG, Secy.

President, in the chair, and the following members: Supervisors Blunt, Davis, Ely, Purdy, Roche, Shook and Willmann—8.

MOTION.

Supervisor BLUNT moved that the regular order of business be suspended, for the purpose of permitting him to submit a report.

Which was carried.

Supervisor BLUNT presented the following report of the Special Committee on Volunteering:

The Special Committee on Volunteering would respectfully submit the following report:

REPORT:

That, in accordance with the instructions of your honorable body, as per resolution adopted at the meeting held on the evening of the 24th inst., the Chairman of your Committee at midnight proceeded to Washington, D. C., to confer with the Hon. Secretary of War, Mr. Cameron, and to interview with Brig. Gen. Hays, and to endeavor to obtain an explanation (in accordance with the instructions of the Board) of the means by which the quota of the County had been raised from four thousand four hundred and thirty-three (4,433), as announced by him to Brig. Gen. Hays on the 23d ult., to the enormous number of twenty-one thousand and nineteen (21,019).

The Chairman of your Committee was informed that the increase in the quota was attributable to the following causes:

First: The redistribution of the Naval Credits claimed by us and allowed.

Second: Reductions in the enrollments of the country districts of the one and three years' men, and the present and past proportion of the men to be raised, rendered ours comparatively larger.

Third: By the report of the War Department, between the 23d and 31st of December, of men raised previous to the 31st of December, which have been included in the quota of the County for December 31st.

Fourth: By the report of the War Department, between the 23d and 31st of December, of men raised previous to the 31st of December, which have been included in the quota of the County for December 31st.

These were the only explanations which the Chairman made, and reported up to that time. Since that time, however, we have been able to obtain the following explanation from Brigadier-General Hays, but such explanations have not yet been received.

This one fact was all that was clear, that the County of New-York is required to furnish twenty-one thousand and nineteen (21,019) men, in addition to all men furnished and credits obtained up to the 31st ult.; and the Chairman of your Committee was assured that but for the naval and other credits secured by your Committee, the present and past proportion of the men to be raised, rendered ours comparatively larger.

Fourth: By the report of the War Department, between the 23d and 31st of December, of men raised previous to the 31st of December, which have been included in the quota of the County for December 31st.

Fourth District..... 4,029 Seventh District..... 3,970 Fifth District..... 3,967 Eighth District..... 3,948 Sixth District..... 3,993 Ninth District..... 3,732

Total..... 21,019

In arriving at these figures, so far as your Committee could learn, the quota assigned, appear to be based upon a call for eight hundred thousand (800,000) men, and the enormous number of men held to be due from the County is derived from its outrageously excessive enrollment.

Had your Committee, as desired by them, been authorized by the War Department two months earlier than they were to undertake the correction of the enrollment, the work would have been done long before the present quota was assigned, and the quota of this County would have been reduced by at least fifteen thousand (15,000) men.

Annexed to this report and marked Appendix A, is the new order of the Provost-Marshal-General, assigning the quota of the Southern District of New-York.

Appendix B, also annexed, is a copy of a letter to Brig. Gen. William Hays, A. A. P. M. Gen., which is the only official explanation yet made of the changes in the quota of this County.

Your Committee hasten to lay these facts before your honorable body. They believe that there is no escape from the demand now made upon us for twenty-one thousand and nineteen (21,019) men. The number of men enlisted at the present rate of bounty is so small as to be almost nothing in comparison with the large number required of us. Either the bounty must be largely increased, or we must give up in despair of finding any means of avoiding a draft.

Whatever injustice may have been done the country in the withdrawal of credits once and justly awarded to us, and by delaying that withdrawal until it is almost too late to think of even supplying the deficiency thus suddenly thrown upon us, we have now no time to reconstruct.

In order to show clearly the effect of this withdrawal of credits, marked C, the letter of Provost-Marshal-General Fry to Brigadier-General Hays, dated December 23, 1864, stating the number of men due from this County to be four thousand four hundred and thirty-three (4,433).

This shows the number of men demanded of each Congressional District of this County by the orders of December 23 and that of January 24, and the increase in the demand in each district.

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS.

By order of Dec. 23. By order of Jan. 24. Increase.

I..... 1,223 1,453 2,311

II..... 1,292 1,507 2,245

VI..... 1,361 1,563 1,978

VII..... 829 1,060 1,071

VIII..... 1,348 1,548 1,348

IX..... 1,732 1,932 1,732

Total..... 4,433 51,019 16,586

In making this report, the duty of your Committee is discharged. It is now for your honorable body to determine what course will be most conducive to the interests of the people of this County. (Signed.)

ORISON BLUNT, WM. M. TWEED, ELIJAH F. PURDY, Special Committee on Volunteering.

WAR DEPARTMENT, PROVOST-MARSHAL-GENERAL'S OFFICE, NEW-YORK, D. C., Jan. 27, 1865.

Brig. Gen. HAYS, Adj. Gen. Hays, U. S. Army, Southern Division N. Y., New-York City.

The quota of the Southern Division of New-York under the call of the President for three hundred thousand (300,000) men, dated December 19, 1864, is Twenty-eight thousand and six hundred and thirty-three (28,633).

This is the number required under the call, after taking into account the credits to which the State is entitled by estimating the number of years of service furnished by one, two and three years' men.

The quota of the First District is..... 1,065

Second District..... 1,174

Third District..... 1,174

Fourth District..... 1,174

Fifth District..... 1,174

Sixth District..... 1,174

Seventh District..... 1,174

Eighth District..... 1,174

Total..... 1,000 932 136 529 2,800 1,000

It will be seen that the excess of years of service over the number of men furnished in the First Sub-District is 100; in the Second 110 &c. &c. Total in the district, 1,300.

The quota of the district under the present call is 1,000. To this add the excess, 1,300, making 2,300; then as the number enrolled in the district (20,000) is so the number enrolled in the sub-district to the quota, which will be reduced by subtracting from its state of the excess.

First Sub-District..... 200 140 50 40 300 100

Second..... 210 150 10 30 350 140

Third..... 220 160 10 30 370 150

Fourth..... 230 170 10 30 390 160